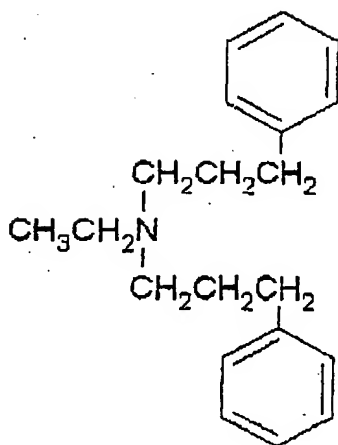


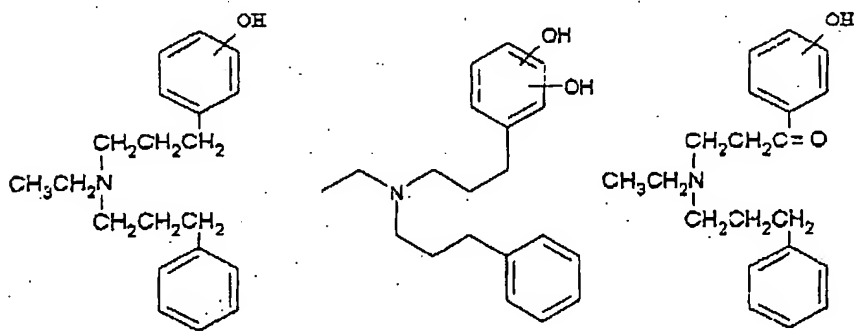
CLAIMS

## 1. Utilisation of Alverine



or its metabolites, their salts and their esters, for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for treating depression.

2. Utilisation as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the metabolites of Alverine are preferably:



3. Utilisation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 and 2, in which the pharmaceutical composition is administered orally, sublingually, buccally, sub-

cutaneously, transdermally, locally, rectally, intranasally, or injectably, in particular intraperitoneally, intravenously or intramuscularly.

4. Utilisation as claimed in Claim 3, according to which the pharmaceutical composition is dosed from 0.1 to 1000 mg of Alverine.

5. Utilisation as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 4, according to which the pharmaceutical composition is administered in human therapy in one or more daily doses for an adult weighing an average of 60 to 70 kg.

6. Utilisation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5 in combination with a tricyclic antidepressant compound.

7. Utilisation as claimed in Claim 6, characterised in that the tricyclic antidepressant compound is imipramine.

8. Utilisation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5 in combination with specific inhibitor antidepressant compound of serotonin recapture.

9. Utilisation as claimed in Claim 8, characterised in that the specific inhibitor antidepressant compound of serotonin recapture is fluoxetine.

10. Utilisation as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 9, characterised in that the compounds are administered simultaneously, separately or staggered over time.

11. A pharmaceutical composition, characterised in that it comprises at least a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 2 or its salts or esters and at least a tricyclic antidepressant compound for

simultaneous use, separately or staggered over time for treating depression.

12. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 11, characterised in that it preferably comprises ratios of doses by weight of Alverine and tricyclic antidepressant of between 1/10 and 10/1.

13. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 11, characterised in that it preferably comprises ratios of doses by weight of Alverine and tricyclic antidepressant of between 1/4 and 4/1.

14. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in any one of Claims 11 to 13, characterised in that the tricyclic antidepressant compound is imipramine.

15. The pharmaceutical composition, characterised in that it comprises at least a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 2 or its salts or esters and at least a specific inhibitor antidepressant compound of serotonin recapture for simultaneous utilisation, separately or staggered over time for treating depression.

16. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 15 characterised in that it preferably comprises ratios of doses by weight of Alverine and specific inhibitor antidepressant of serotonin recapture of between 1/10 and 10/1.

17. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 15, characterised in that it preferably comprises ratios of doses by weight of Alverine and specific inhibitor antidepressant of serotonin recapture of between 1/4 and 4/1.

18. The composition as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 17, characterised in that the specific

inhibitor antidepressant compound of serotonin  
recapture is fluoxetine.

Figure 1

Temps d'immobilisation (secondes)	Immobility time (seconds)
Excipients (1 % methylcellulose)	Excipients (1% methyl cellulose)
Alverine citrate 3mg/kg	Alverine citrate 3mg/kg
Alverine citrate 10mg/kg	Alverine citrate 10mg/kg
Alverine citrate 30mg/kg	Alverine citrate 30mg/kg
Imipramine 10mg/kg	Imipramine 10mg/kg

Figure 2

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Temps d'immobilisation (secondes)	Immobility time (seconds)
Excipients (solution saline)	Excipients (saline solution)
Alverine citrate 3mg/kg	Alverine citrate 3mg/kg
Alverine citrate 10mg/kg	Alverine citrate 10mg/kg
Alverine citrate 30mg/kg	Alverine citrate 30mg/kg
Imipramine 10mg/kg	Imipramine 10mg/kg

Figure 3

Véhicule + véhicule	Vehicle + vehicle
Véhicule + Imipramine 3mg/kg	Vehicle + Imipramine 3mg/kg
Alvérine 3mg/kg + véhicule	Alverine 3mg/kg + vehicle
Alvérine 3mg/kg + Imipramine 3mg/kg	Alverine 3mg/kg + Imipramine 3mg/kg
Véhicule + Imipramine 10mg/kg	Vehicle + Imipramine 10mg/kg
Alvérine 10mg/kg + véhicule	Alverine 10mg/kg + vehicle

Figure 4

Véhicule + véhicule	Vehicle + vehicle
Véhicule + Fluoxétine 3mg/kg	Vehicle + Fluoxetine 3mg/kg
Alvérine 3mg/kg + véhicule	Alverine 3mg/kg + vehicle
Alvérine 3mg/kg + Fluoxétine 3mg/kg	Alverine 3mg/kg + Fluoxetine 3mg/kg
Véhicule + Fluoxétine 10mg/kg	Vehicle + Fluoxetine 10mg/kg
Alvérine 10mg/kg + véhicule	Alverine 10mg/kg + vehicle